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NEWS

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June 11, 1999

For Immediate Release:

**Governor's Office to Co-Sponsor Statewide Summit on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
on College Campuses**

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- In response to recent deaths and campus accidents related to alcohol and/or other drug abuse at colleges and universities across the nation, Illinois Gov. George Ryan's Office is co-hosting a summit on June 14 and 15 to provide a forum for emerging leadership among campus presidents and state-level policymakers. There will be a call for the summit body to take the lead in the national movement for presidents to "Be Vocal, Be Visible, Be Visionary."

Specifically, the summit will:

- Highlight research from the higher education alcohol, other drug and violence prevention field in Illinois and nationally;
- Provide an overview of legal and legislative issues pertinent to institutional responses to alcohol, other drug and violence incidents:
- Facilitate a discussion about and develop recommendations for policy and resource supports at the state level for prevention in higher education; and
- Conclude with a ceremony at which participants will have the opportunity to sign a letter of commitment.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 11,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

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SUMMIT

The summit is co-sponsored by Eastern Illinois University's Office of Safety Programs, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Higher Education Center for the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse.

This is the first event in Illinois' history to focus on specific policy solutions for the number one ranked concern among college and university presidents. Plans are being made now for a statewide structure to insure that the summit recommendations will be implemented.

For more information, contact Kathy Larsson, Eastern Illinois University Safety Programs, at 618-993-2077.

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR: Eastern Illinois University President Carol Surles will be among the Illinois college and university presidents represented at the summit and will be giving the welcome at the opening dinner June 14. Also representing Eastern are Office of Safety Programs staff Becky Markwell, Kathy Larsson, Cathy Kimball and Judy Hartleroad. Eastern's Office of Safety Programs, a co-sponsor of the summit, is administering the Illinois Higher Education Prevention Project.